

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1 1. A method for auctioning surplus products in a supply chain management  
2 framework, comprising:
  - 3 a) receiving data from a plurality of outlets of a supply chain utilizing a network, the  
4 data relating to an amount of products sold by the outlets;
  - 5 b) making the data accessible to the outlets, distributors, and suppliers utilizing a  
6 network based interface; and
  - 7 c) auctioning surplus products from at least one of the outlets utilizing the network-  
8 based interface.
- 1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the outlets, the distributors, and the suppliers are  
2 provided access to the network-based interface.
- 1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the outlets, the distributors, and the suppliers are  
2 capable of submitting bids utilizing the network-based interface.
- 1 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the network includes the Internet.
- 1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the auctioning is initiated in response to one of  
2 *the outlets closing.* *clavian design*
- 1 6. A system for auctioning surplus products in a supply chain management  
2 framework, comprising:
  - 3 a) logic for receiving data from a plurality of outlets of a supply chain utilizing a  
4 network, the data relating to an amount of products sold by the outlets;
  - 5 b) logic for making the data accessible to the outlets, distributors, and suppliers  
6 utilizing a network based interface; and

7    c) logic for auctioning surplus products from at least one of the outlets utilizing the  
8       network-based interface.

1    7. The system of claim 6, wherein the outlets, the distributors, and the suppliers are  
2       provided access to the network-based interface.

1    8. The system of claim 7, wherein the outlets, the distributors, and the suppliers are  
2       capable of submitting bids utilizing the network-based interface.

1    9. The system of claim 6, wherein the network includes the Internet.

1    10. The system of claim 6, wherein the auctioning is initiated in response to one of  
2       the outlets closing.

1    11. A computer program product for auctioning surplus products in a supply chain  
2       management framework, comprising:  
3       a) computer code for receiving data from a plurality of outlets of a supply chain  
4       utilizing a network, the data relating to an amount of products sold by the outlets;  
5       b) computer code for making the data accessible to the outlets, distributors, and  
6       suppliers utilizing a network based interface; and  
7       c) computer code for auctioning surplus products from at least one of the outlets  
8       utilizing the network-based interface.

1    12. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the outlets, the distributors,  
2       and the suppliers are provided access to the network-based interface.

1    13. The computer program product of claim 12, wherein the outlets, the distributors,  
2       and the suppliers are capable of submitting bids utilizing the network-based  
3       interface.

- 1 14. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the network includes the
  - 2 Internet.  
  - 1 15. The computer program product of claim 11, wherein the auctioning is initiated in
  - 2 response to one of the outlets closing.